

DISPATCHER OF THE MONTH

We are pleased to announce that KTY008 has been named DOTM!

With six years under his belt, this IPN Dispatcher makes an impact!

Dispatcher of the Month is a random drawing and all active dispatchers are eligible to win.

BABY, IT'S COLD OUTSIDE

Winter has arrived and it's cold outside! Nothing is more relaxing than listening to your scanner while sitting by the fireplace...

Various heating systems are prone to defects producing calls for malfunctioning fireplaces, stoves and oil burners. Chimney fires are quite common. These calls may seem insignificant but they are important to some IPN subscribers. A quick alert over smoke damage is going to make them very happy. You are also welcome to send a Traffic Advisory for the same call if units are obstructing a main roadway. Points will be given for both pages.



On occasion, a "Santa" gets stuck in a chimney or on a roof. A rapid media response will often yield impressive footage. Please be sure to transmit these calls over Technical Rescue. This category is also appropriate for animals that require extrication. You can also send a second page to Structure Damage when applicable.

These types of calls offers a great way to remain active. If you don't have access to expansion categories, contact support to have them enabled.

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GET THE BEST BATTERY LIFE FOR YOUR SCANNER

If you plan to recharge your batteries make sure you have the correct type. Alkaline batteries are not designed to be recharged. Nickel Cadmium (NiCd), Nickel Metal Hydride (NiMH) and Lithium Ion (Li-ion) batteries are meant to be recharged. For scanners, the NiMH battery is recommended.

So, how can you get the best life out of your batteries? If you charge your scanner instead of removing the batteries and charging them separately, then you might not be charging the batteries to their fullest potential. Most scanners today charge batteries to a preset time, which can be a very bad thing. Since the scanner is not checking the battery voltage it does not know if it needs to be charged for five minutes or five hours.

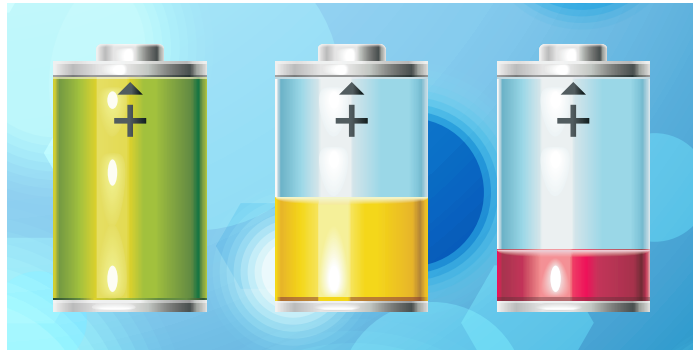
Also, overcharging a battery can create heat, which is bad for batteries. Excessive heat will not only wear down a battery and shorten its life but can also increase the potential for damage to the scanner, or worse yet, it could start a fire! Scanners do not detect the voltage of the batteries and thus cannot charge them accordingly leaving the battery over or

undercharged. To properly charge a NiMH it is recommended to take the batteries out of the scanner and put them into an external charger.

One option for an external battery charge is a four unit individual cell charger. This type of charger does not rely on a set amount of time to charge the battery; it actually measures the voltage of the individual battery when charging. As the current (capacity) inside the battery decreases the voltage will also drop.

With today's smart chargers these units can make sure a battery is charged to its fullest potential and do this in a safe manner each time.

An added benefit to most of these chargers is the ability to analyze and condition a battery. This will become more useful as the battery starts to get older. It will also help if you tend to keep batteries in a scanner but keep the scanner plugged in all the time so the scanner is not relying on battery power to operate. We will dive into battery conditioning and analyzing in the next newsletter.



*Happy Holidays
to YOU!*

**All of us from IPN wish you and yours a very
happy, safe, and healthy holiday season!
May your days be filled with blessings and joy.**





11-13-2017 16:27| CON |
Trumbull| Traffic Advisory|
| Rt 15 SB IAO Exit 47|MVA
rollover off the roadway.
No reported injuries. CSP
o/s. TEMS/FD enroute|
CON023

Photographed by
CON023

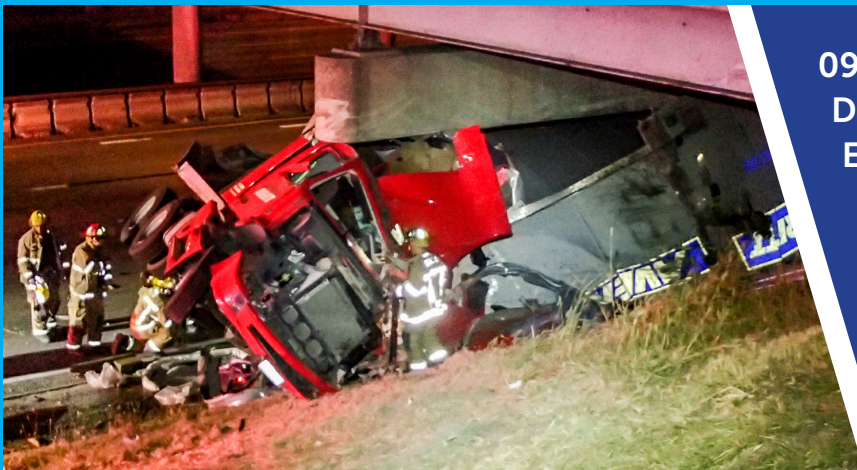
ENTRAPPED OR NOT?

Lots of questions are asked concerning the exact definition of entrapment. Is a door pop considered a true extrication? Is confinement comparable to being pinned? When live wires are down is the person considered "trapped"? If the person can't get out of an unstable vehicle without stabilization is this a Major Accident?

The answer to most of these questions is "yes." Just about all of these situations fall under the umbrella of entrapment and/or extrication. Rarely if ever do we have eyes on the scene to see what equipment or tools are being used. The term "confinement" means the person is unable to exit without assistance and specialized equipment. In most cases, a door pop requires some type of mechanical tool, be it the spreaders, combi-tool, jaws, cutters or whatever your agency uses for terminology.

On the other hand, if the door can be opened by hand tools such as an axe or Halligan bar this is not a true door pop. Since we can't see through the scanner, use your best judgment.

Let's say there is a call for a vehicle in a bad spot such as teetering on a bridge, down an embankment or rolled on its side. The radio traffic indicates that it is unsafe for the occupant to exit so the vehicle must be stabilized using cribbing, struts, airbags, come-alongs and the like. You can argue that the person is not technically trapped, however, any call of this nature where specialized equipment is needed should be paged to Major Accident. The same applies to people stuck in a vehicle waiting for power to be killed. Its not "glamorous" but it is considered a Major Accident.



09-23-2017 04:03| DFW|
Dallas| Hazmat| 453.875|
E RL Thornton Frwy @ N Jim
Miller|FD O/S of an 18 wheeler
crash. HazMat TF 3 for large
diesel spill| DFW156

Photographed by DFW156

TO UPDATE OR NOT TO UPDATE

In past newsletters, we have gone into detail regarding critical updates. Be sure to look at past issues for a quick refresher. You can find them here: www.incidentpage.net/members/newsletter/past.cgi

Adding to what has been discussed in the past, we want to shed some light on the practice of sending updates for the sole purpose of telling folks that interdepartmental notifications have been made. These are normally notations such as "Full Notifications Made", "Level 1 in regards", "Detectives Notified" and the like. None of these by itself is a valid update. IPN is not directly responsible for making these notifications for the agency in question. They have telecommunications people who do this. If it is normal policy for these folks to be sent there is no need for us to generate an additional alert. It is okay if used as secondary info on an update but it is not grounds of an update by itself.

This also holds true on many external notifications. For example, the FBI is notified on every bank robbery because it is a federal offense. There is no need to send an update explaining that the FBI was alerted. Another example is a 1 Alarm Fire in a town that doesn't have its own investigators. Incident Command may call for an outside agency such as a state fire marshal. While one may assume the fire is arson, it really only means that the local department cannot make a determination or may want a second set of eyes on a cause. There is no need to send an update without other significant details not previously transmitted.

Never speculate as to why another agency was called to a scene. Stick to the factual details as provided by the officer in charge (OIC/IC).

WELCOME NEW DISPATCHERS!

IPN welcomed 27 new dispatchers to the organization this month. Hopefully each of them will take a minute to learn the guidelines so they can knock it out of the ballpark each month. If any of these members are in your chapter please take a minute to introduce yourself. Community is what separates us from all those other groups that desperately want to be IPN.

ALA005 Brad	KTY056 Joseph	NJY053 Kacper
ALB007 Steve	LAX003 Marco	NJY273 Anthony
ALB012 Travis	MAR101 Jeremy	NYK044 Louis
ALB023 Mike	MAS009 Garrett	NYK344 Josh
CAL200 Dillon	MAS012 Matt	OHI050 Kenneth
FLA095 Tim	MAS357 Michael	PEN086 Charles
FLA121 Nick	NJS087 Bryce	PEN132 Dave
FLA208 Mike	NJY011 Michael	SCA039 Brandon
FLA290 Nick	NJY019 Conner	WAS075 Cody



10-29-2017 16:18 | Baltimore County (Owings Mills)| Crime Scene | 10100 Reisterstown Rd|BCoPD 3rd Pct & Crime Lab o/s shots fired at Hair Cuttery, no one hit. Shell casings found.| MAR137

**Photographed by
Michael Schwartzberg**



10-22-2017 13:02| Milwaukee| 1 Alarm Fire| | S 15th St & W Lapham Blvd|Units on scene with residential structure fire, heavy smoke showing.|U/D:2nd Alarm Now For The Residential Structure Fire With Exposure.| WSC039

Photographed by Charlie Lockwood



11-16-2017 23:42| PEN| Chester County (West Chester)| 5+ Alarm Fire| | 700 North Franklin St|CMD req 5th alarm, for fully involved 2 story assisted living facility with multiple casualties| PEN028

Photographed by Anthony Klucznik



10-27-2017 11:39| FLA| Sarasota| Major Accident| SCFD Cmd 2| I-75SB @ 205mm|Sta16 units o/s MVA. Mult veh involved, R16 calling Trauma Alert by ground. All 3 lanes closed.| FLA027

Photographed by William Barker



MONTHLY STATS

As a few keen eyes have noticed, the call count in IPN's online database hit 3 million incidents this month. This number is quite impressive and it couldn't have happened without everyone's efforts. We really appreciate YOU!

What is even more exciting is the fact that our database only goes back to January 1st of 2010. Given we have been hammering out real time notifications for close to two decades

we can attest to the fact that our call count from inception is much higher than this.

The call volume in October remained fairly consistent with California leading the pack. This is surprising because we have seen lapses in day time coverage for Los Angeles but this didn't have an effect on their overall stats. New York, Florida, Illinois and Massachusetts round out the top five. A spectacular job by the dispatchers in the land of Lincoln makes their second trip to the number four spot by transmitting 1,234 alerts.

January	February	March	April	May
New York	Florida	Florida	Florida	California
California	New York	New York	California	Florida
Florida	California	California	New York	New York
New Jersey	New Jersey	Mass	New Jersey	Mass
Texas	Mass	New Jersey	Illinois	Illinois
Mass	Pennsylvania	Maryland	Mass	Texas
Pennsylvania	Maryland	Illinois	Texas	New Jersey
Wisconsin	Texas	Texas	Pennsylvania	Ohio
Ontario	Wisconsin	Ohio	Ohio	Pennsylvania
Ohio	Illinois	Pennsylvania	Maryland	Connecticut

June	July	August	September	October
New York	California	California	California	California
California	New York	New York	New York	New York
Florida	Florida	Florida	Florida	Florida
Mass	Illinois	Mass	Mass	Illinois
Illinois	Mass	Illinois	Illinois	Mass
New Jersey	New Jersey	Texas	New Jersey	New Jersey
Pennsylvania	Texas	Pennsylvania	Ohio	Ohio
Ohio	Pennsylvania	New Jersey	Pennsylvania	Maryland
Texas	Maryland	Ohio	Connecticut	Pennsylvania
Maryland	Connecticut	Maryland	Maryland	Connecticut

The bottom five continues to be a battle royal. This month's big news is Maryland leapfrogging two other chapters. Wow!

We would also like to acknowledge the dispatchers in Ontario who work hard each month to stay at the top of our international chapters. They paged 443 calls in October. We see some promising, new talent in the province of Alberta. Could this create some competition in Canada? We would all love to see it!



HOTLINE INFO REMINDER

Provide all necessary information. Spell street names and towns.
Text: hotline@incidentpage.net Toll-free Phone: 1-888-339-8259

WHERE DID THE HALLIGAN BAR COME FROM?



The Halligan Bar was designed by and named after a New York City Fire Department First Deputy Chief named Hugh Halligan in 1948. Later that year the first prototype of the Halligan bar was made by Peter Clarke (a blacksmith). Because the device had been invented by one of its members, the FDNY did not initially purchase the tool because of a perceived conflict of interest.

The City of Boston Fire Department was the first major customer of the Halligan, purchasing one for every fire company in the city. The tool was popular enough that members of New York ladder companies went out and bought it with their own money until the department ultimately decided to purchase the tool, gradually leading to widespread adoption across North America and eventually worldwide. The Halligan has become the most versatile hand tool to be used for the past six decades for a multitude of fireground tasks.

Info from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Halligan_bar



The IPN Team would like to wish NJY013, Robert, a speedy recovery following his recent major surgery.

CONTACT US

Please send us your article suggestions, incident photos, input, and feedback. We want to hear from you and share it with other dispatchers!

Remember, this is YOUR newsletter!

Newsletter Story & Photo Submission:

newsletter@incidentpage.net

General Support:

support@incidentpage.net

Dispatcher Admin Office:

1900 Weld Blvd, Suite 105
El Cajon, CA 92020

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